

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 /041 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 091730

R 022103Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY SANAA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
INFO CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 2, 1975:

QUOTE: Q. HAVE YOU GOT OFFICIAL WORD FROM THE EGYPTIANS
THAT THEY HAVE REQUESTED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE TO BE HELD
AGAIN.

A. YES, WE HAVE. WE RECEIVED WORD LAST NIGHT.

Q. ANY DATE SUGGESTED IN THAT PROPOSAL?

A. NO, THERE WASN'T. AND ON THIS, OBVIOUSLY, WE WILL BE
CONSULTING THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN AND PARTIES, AND WE ARE NOW
LOOKING INTO IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY WORKING DATES IN MIND?

A. NO. IT WILL BE STUDIED.

Q. I BELIEVE THAT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID THE OTHER
NIGHT THAT HE ANTICIPATED THE GENEVA CONFERENCE BEING
RECONVENED IN LATE SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER, WHICH WOULD PUT
IT INTO JUNE OR JULY. IS THAT YOUR ESTIMATE, AS WELL?

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A. WE HAVE NO ESTIMATE AT THIS TIME. WE HAVE JUST RECEIV-
ED THE FORMAL REQUEST BY EGYPT TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA
CONFERENCE, AND WE WILL NOW BE IN TOUCH WITH THE OTHER
CO-CHAIRMAN, THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE OTHER PARTIES, AND
THERE IS JUST NOTHING ON TIMING AT ALL YET.

Q. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS MESSAGE BESIDES A
REQUEST FOR THE RECONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE?

A. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE IN THE MESSAGE?

Q. WELL, WERE THERE ANY SUGGESTIONS ABOUT OTHER PARTIES BEING INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE NATURE OF THE MESSAGE THAT WAS SENT. I AM JUST CONFIRMING TO YOU THAT WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY EGYPT TO RECONVENE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT THAT EGYPT WOULD LIKE TO SEE BRITAIN AND FRANCE ALSO PARTICIPATE. DID THAT MEAN IN THE CONFERENCE, AND IS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO THAT, AND WILL THAT BE PART OF THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN?

A. WITH REGARD TO OTHER PARTICIPANTS, OBVIOUSLY WE WILL BE TALKING WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AS THE OTHER CO-CHAIRMAN, AND WITH THE OTHER PARTIES, AND THIS TYPE OF QUESTION AND OTHER QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO TIMING WILL BE DISCUSSED. BUT I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANYTHING ELSE AT THIS TIME.

Q. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE GOING TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE CO-CHAIRMAN, BUT WHAT I AM TRYING TO GET AT IS, DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A VIEW ON IT? THAT WOULD HAVE TO COME FIRST, WOULDN'T IT?

A. WE ARE STUDYING THIS QUESTION.

Q. THIS MORNING THERE WAS A REPORT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ASKING THE FOREIGN OFFICE OF SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND CANADA TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING ISRAEL TO BACK DOWN ON ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. WHAT DO WE HAVE ON THIS?

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CATE WITH THE ISRAELIS ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING

ISRAEL TO BACK DOWN ON ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO AN INTERIM AGREEMENT. WHAT DO WE HAVE ON THIS?

A. YES, I SAW THESE SAME REPORTS. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT NO REQUEST HAS BEEN MADE TO ANY GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE WITH ISRAEL IN ANY WAY.

Q. THE QUESTION ABOUT THE CARGO SHIPS DESTINED FOR ISRAEL THROUGH THE SUEZ. THAT HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE A COUPLE OF DAYS.

A. YES, IT WAS POSTED YESTERDAY. # END QUOTE.

#

SUBSEQUENT TO YESTERDAY'S PRESS BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER WAS POSTED IN THE PRESS OFFICE FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE CORRESPONDENTS:

"Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THAT ISRAELI CARGOES WILL BE ALLOWED THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL ONCE IT IS OPENED?

A. AS WE INDICATED AT THE TIME, CERTAIN OF THE UNDERSTANDINGS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WERE NOT MADE PUBLIC. WE HAVE INFORMED THE PROPER COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, HOWEVER, OF ALL THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS OUR CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS." KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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